

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An intermediate support element for a front fender of a motor vehicle, the support element being able to be mounted on an upper beam of a chassis of the motor vehicle, the support element comprising:

a body; and

at least one breakable protuberance projecting upward and to which said front fender is intended to be fixed, said protuberance and said body being molded in a single part, said protuberance comprising:

at least one front wall connected ~~by a frangible zone to said body, to the~~
body by a frangible zone situated at a foot of the protuberance,

a rear wall connected by the frangible zone to said body, and

a third wall connected by the ~~frangible~~ frangible zone to said body,

wherein:

the third wall rigidly connects the front wall and the rear wall to each other,

and

the frangible zone is a thinned zone having a thickness that is less than said body and said front wall, said rear wall and said third wall of the ~~protuberance-protuberance,~~
the frangible zone being configured to break when the support element is subjected to a substantially vertical force directed downwards and corresponding to an impact with a pedestrian.

2. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein opposite the third wall, the breakable protuberance has a fourth wall, the frangible

zone connects said fourth wall to said body and the fourth wall rigidly connects the front wall and the rear wall to each other.

3. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the frangible zone surrounds the breakable protuberance.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third wall of the protuberance is drilled with a hole for the passage of a fixing device that fixes the fender to the protuberance.

6. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body has an upper wall that is provided with the protuberance, and at least one upper oblique release ramp on a side of an edge of the front fender fitted to the upper wall and, at a lowest point, reaching a side edge of the upper wall.

7. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is molded in a thermosetting polymer.

8. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 7, wherein the thermosetting polymer is filled with fibers and non-filiform particles.

9. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 8, wherein the support element contains between 25 and 40% by weight of thermosetting polymer, between 18 and 25% by weight of glass fibers and between 40 and 50% by weight of non-filiform particles.

10. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 7, wherein the thermosetting polymer is electrically conductive.

11. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed claim 1, further comprising positioning structure that positions at least one front piece of equipment of the motor vehicle.

12. (Previously Presented) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance is inside a first enveloping circle which has a center in a middle of a front portion of the frangible zone, in front of the protuberance, and passes through the middle of a rear portion of the frangible zone, behind the protuberance, and in that in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance is inside a second enveloping circle which has a center in a middle of the rear portion of the frangible zone, and passes through the middle of the front portion of the frangible zone.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for molding the intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, in which a mold is used which comprises at least one fixed part and one movable part and which delimits a molding chamber and at least one discharge passage communicating with the molding chamber, the latter comprising at least one portion which corresponds to said thinned zone of the intermediate support element and which is located between the fixed part and the movable part of the mold, the method comprising steps in which:

- a) the molding chamber is provided with more molding paste than is necessary for molding the intermediate support element, and then

- b) the movable part of the mold is moved toward the fixed part of the mold so as to cause the molding paste to flow between the fixed and movable parts and to discharge a surplus of molding paste through the discharge passage, until the mold delimits, apart from shrinkage, the final form of the intermediate support element.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein in step b), the movable part of the mold is moved in a direction substantially perpendicular to said thinned zone of the intermediate support element during molding.